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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Mass: COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS' SERVICES

for the

YEAR 1949

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services

State House, Boston, January 15, 1950

To the Honorable Senate and the House of Representatives:

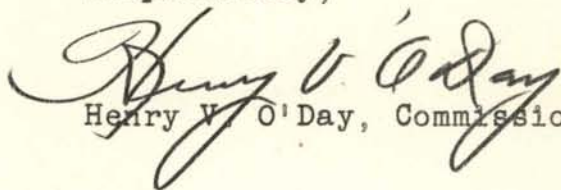
In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 115, Section 2, General Laws, as amended, I submit to you the annual report of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services.

The part relating to Veterans' Benefits is for the calendar year 1948, disbursed in 1949.

The part relating to the work of the Pension, Rehabilitation, and Blood Donor Service Divisions is for the calendar year 1949.

This report also includes a detailed statement of the expenditures for personnel and incidentals for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949.

Respectfully,


Henry V. O'Day, Commissioner

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of
Commissioner of Veterans' Services
State House, Boston 33

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The receipts and expenditures for this department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1949, were as follows:

Receipts

Department Income	\$486.65
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Expenditures

Salaries of Commissioner and Deputies	\$	15,334.09
Personal Service		
Permanent	\$79,204.98	
Temporary	<u>85,799.78</u>	165,004.76
Incidentals		23,968.55
Reimbursement to cities and towns for State Aid, Military Aid and Burials		3,669,614.77
Reimbursement to cities and towns for War Allow- ance World War II		<u>36,486.04</u>
Total expenditures	\$	<u>3,910,408.21</u>

Financial Statement Verified
(Under Requirements of C. 7, § 19 GL)

Date March 2, 1950

By Joseph A. Prenney
For the Comptroller app.
J. A. R.

Approved for Publishing

Fred A. Moncewicz
Comptroller

Veterans' Benefits

Chapter 584, Acts of 1946, which amended Chapter 115, General Laws, became operative on January 1, 1947. State Aid, Military Aid, Soldiers' Relief, Special Care Allowance and Burials are all classed under Veterans' Benefits.

Application for Veterans' Benefits is filed in the place of legal settlement and then referred to the Office of Commissioner of Veterans' Services with recommendation by the local agent.

In settled cases the full amount authorized is paid by the place of settlement and the Commonwealth reimburses for one-half.

Where a veteran, or dependents, are not settled but have resided in the Commonwealth for three years next preceding the date of application, application is filed in the place of residence and the amount approved is reimbursed in full by the Commonwealth.

The number of persons aided during the year totalled 14,113. Disbursements for the calendar year 1948, reimbursed in 1949, are classified as follows:

Civil War.	\$ 54,055.30
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Widows	115
Children	12
Total number of cases	127

Indian Campaigns	4,135.83
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Veteran	1
Widows	15
Total number of cases	16

War with Spain.	102,333.73
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Veterans	49
Wives	1
Widows	311
Mothers	2
Children	5
Total number of cases	368

Philippine Insurrection	16,373.32
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Veterans	6
Widows	53
Total number of cases	59

Carried Forward \$176,898.18

	Brought Forward	\$176,898.18
Mexican Border		9,062.72
Veterans	11	
Widows	6	
Total number of cases	17	
World War I		1,569,551.01
Veterans	2827	
Wives	162	
Widows	1006	
Mothers	342	
Fathers	95	
Children	167	
Total number of cases	4599	
World War II		1,995,705.21
Veterans	5958	
Wives	554	
Widows	136	
Mothers	1506	
Fathers	491	
Children	63	
Total number of cases	8708	
	Approved to cities and towns	3,751,217.12
	Total cost to Commonwealth	1,825,608.56

The foregoing disbursements for each war represents one-half of the amount approved by this office.

STATE SETTLED

Spanish War	\$	17.00
Veteran	1	
Widow	1	
Total number of cases	2	
World War I.		14,542.52
Veterans	35	
Wives	1	
Widows	13	
Mothers	11	
Fathers	1	
Children	2	
Total number of cases	63	

Carried Forward \$2,766,776.64

Brought Forward \$3,765,776.64

World War II. 36,587.91

Veterans	27
Widows	1
Fathers	17
Mothers	48
Total number of cases	93

Total expenditures State Settled Cases 51,147.43

Detail of State War Allowance expenditures

State War Allowance is granted to the dependents of men now serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. This is provided by Chapter 11, Acts of 1942, enacted by Special Session of the Legislature. The Act was approved on January 31st, 1942.

State War Allowance is paid by cities and towns and is reimbursed in its entirety by the Commonwealth.

State War Allowance. 5,473.91

Wives	18
Mothers	36
Fathers	7
Total number of cases	61

Total cost to Commonwealth 3,807,838.46

Detail of Burial expenditures

Burial allowance is granted in the case of a needy veteran and his dependents. The allowance is paid by the local authorities and is reimbursed by the Commonwealth in the same manner as Veterans' Benefits.

Civil War. 605.17

Widows	6
Total number of cases	6

War with Spain 504.74

Veterans	6
Widows	1
Mother	1
Total number of cases	8

Philippine Insurrection. 100.00

Widow	1
Total number of cases	1

Carried Forward \$3,809,048.37

Brought Forward \$3,809,048.37

World War I. 5,989.71

Veterans	40
Wives	7
Widows	1
Mothers	11
Fathers	5
Children	6

Total number of cases	70
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World War II 4,132.14

Veterans	14
Wives	5
Widows	1
Mothers	3
Fathers	8
Children	19

Total number of cases	50
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State Settled-World War I. 513.00

Veterans	4
Wives	1

Total number of cases	5
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State Settled-World War II. 450.00

Veterans	1
Fathers	2
Mothers	1

Total number of cases	4
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Total expenditures State Settled Cases	963.00
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Total expenditures under Chapter 115, G.L. 12,294.76

Chapter 573, Acts of 1946 (Repatriated W.W. II dead)
. 20,161.16

Veterans	593
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Total expenditure for burials	32,455.92
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Total number of cases	798
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Total expenditure \$3,840,294.38

This department filed claim with the Social Security Administration for Lump Sum Death Payments under Section 202, paragraph g, of the Social Security Act, in the cases of veterans who died, leaving no next-of-kin, who were eligible under the Act. We received payments amounting to \$486.65.

1949 Legislation

Chapter 295, Acts of 1949, operative August 11, 1949

Provides financial assistance for the Polish-American Veterans, Inc., in defraying expenses incurred in conducting military funerals or burials of persons who died overseas during World War II.

Chapter 500, Acts of 1949, operative Sept. 15, 1949

Provides for burial allowance for State Guardsmen who served between April 5, 1917, and December 21, 1919, or during World War II.

Chapter 524, Acts of 1949, effective July 11, 1949

Amends Chapter 573 on repatriated burials-provides that application should be filed within one year from date on which burial or funeral is held, excepting burials held during 1948 which may be filed prior to December 31, 1949.

Chapter 599, Acts of 1949, effective October 22, 1949

An Act relative to payment of Veterans' Benefits in certain emergency cases.

Chapter 660, Acts of 1949, effective August 9, 1949

Provides for payment of a \$500 yearly annuity to certain paraplegic veterans.

Resolve 69, signed August 23, 1949

Provides for investigation and study by the Commissioner of Veterans' Services relative to Veterans' Benefits, report to be filed in December 1950.

BLOOD DONOR SERVICE

Blood Donor Service was established in the Office of the Commissioner of Veterans' Services, with a Supervisor of Blood Donations in charge, on July 1, 1948.

During the period from July 1, 1948, through June 30, 1949, there were 4,006 donors, and with whole blood costing approximately \$25.00 a pint, this would be an estimated saving to the Commonwealth of \$100,150.00, if this quantity had to be purchased.

There were 1,324 requests for blood from more than seventy hospitals, other than Veterans Administration Hospitals, which was distributed for the use of veterans, and their dependents, regardless of organizations, free-of-charge.

REHABILITATION

The so-called Rehabilitation Division of the Office of Commissioner of Veterans' Services handles all inquiries which come to this office pertaining to the operations of the following divisions of the Veterans' Administration:

Administrative, Contact, Medical, Adjudication, Finance, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education Divisions, Loan Guarantee, Legal, and the various sections within each of these divisions.

Under an arrangement made with the Veterans Administration, Field Agents from this office are located at 150 Causeway Street, Boston, to assist in the processing of claims for subsistence allowance.

Our agents have made personal appearances on appeals on behalf of veterans and their dependents on the following:

- Bonus Division
- Appellate Tax Board
- Re-Adjustment allowance inquiries, and claims
- Employment security, compensation inquiries and claims
- Federal Civil Service and State Civil Service
- Employment
- Hospitalization emergencies
- P L 16 and training matters and claims
- Non-receipt of checks

PENSION DIVISION

Total Number of Claims.	3536
Total Number of Miscellaneous Cases	1250
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Total	4786

Number of Claims Awarded	1458
Number of Claims Rejected.	616
Total Value of Pensions Awarded.	\$401,736.78

CONTACT OFFICE AT VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

The Contact Office at #1 Court Street, Boston, handled 5,863 claims during 1949, on the following matters:

- P-22 Power of Attorney
- Service Connected Pension Claims
- Non-Service Pension Claims
- Dental and Out-Patient Treatment
- Hospitalization (Veterans Administration Hospitals)
- Widows and Dependent Parent Claims
- Federal Burial Allowance
- Providence Claims
- Finance and Rehabilitation Problems
- Cases reviewed at the Service Tables
- Rating Board Appearances and Hearings
- Physical Examinations
- Checking Requests
- Civil Service Problems
- Housing Inquiries
- Job Finding Inquiries
- Insurance Problems

The following laws, pertaining to veterans and their dependents, were enacted during the year 1949.

Public Law 51 - 81st Congress.

"Joint Resolution to authorize completion of the processing of the visa cases, and admission into the United States, of certain alien fiances, and fiannees of members, or of former members of the armed forces of the United States, as was provided in the so-called GI Fiannees Act (60 Stat. 339), as amended."

Public Law 69 - 81st Congress.

"An Act to clarify the provisions of section 602 (u) of the National Service Life Insurance Act of 1940, as amended."

Public Law 171 - 81st Congress.

"The United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended." - Section 302 - Veterans' Preference -

Public Law 193 - 81st Congress.

"An Act to authorize the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Secretary of the Air Force to lend certain property to national veterans' organizations, and for other purposes.

Public Law 194 - 81st Congress.

"An Act modifying a limitation affecting the pension, compensation, or retirement pay payable on account of an incompetent veteran without dependents during hospitalization, institutional or domiciliary care."

Public Law 195 - 81st Congress.

"An Act to adjust the effective date of certain awards of pensions and compensations payable by the Veterans Administration."

Public Law 269 - 81st Congress.

"An Act to amend the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944 with respect to certain mothers of veterans."

Public Law 339 - 81st Congress.

"An Act to increase compensation for World War I presumptive service-connected cases, provide minimum ratings for service-connected arrested tuberculosis, increase certain disability and death compensation rates, liberalize requirement for dependency allowances, and redefine the terms "line of duty" and "wilful misconduct".